



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/820,378	03/28/2001	Paul Richard	PC11809ARDT	5667

7590 05/03/2006

Richard R Michaud  
The Michaud-Duffy Group LLP  
306 Industrial Park Road Suite 206  
Middletown, CT 06457

EXAMINER
----------

FLORES SANCHEZ, OMAR

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3724

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/820,378

Applicant(s)

RICHARD, PAUL

Examiner

Omar Flores-Sánchez

Art Unit

3724

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --****Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-12,20 and 24-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-8,10-12,20 and 24-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's amendment received on 01/27/06.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 5-8, 20, 24-33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terry et al. (3,935,639) in view of Bond (4,514,904).

Terry et al. discloses (Fig. 1-10) the invention substantially as claimed including a pivot frame 14, a pivot assembly 16, a system/virtual axis 26, a blade assembly 12, second biasing means/cantilever spring 62, a guard bar 32 and a three blade (see col. 3, lines 30-34). Terry et al. does not show a blade assembly pivotally coupled to a pivot assembly. However, Bond teaches the use of first biasing means 18 for the purpose of improving the safety and the reliability of the razor during use. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Bond's blade assembly and pivot assembly by providing the first biasing means as taught by Bond in order to obtain a device that improves the safety and reliability of the razor during use.

Bond's first biasing means is capable of presenting greater resistance depending on the contours of the surface being shaved. Also, the combination of Terry et al. and Bond teaches the system axis coaxially aligned with one part of the blade assembly (see Fig. 2 of Terry et al.) and coaxially aligned with another part of the blade assembly (see Fig. 3 of Bond).

4. Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terry et al. (3935639) in view of Bond (4,514,904) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Andrews (6,161,288).

The modified device of Terry et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed including the pivot assembly is pivotally movable through an angle of approximately  $\pm 20^\circ$  or  $40^\circ$  relative to said pivot frame. Terry et al. does not show an angle of approximately  $45^\circ$ . However, Andrews teaches the use of a blade assembly pivotally movable through an angle of approximately  $45^\circ$  (see Fig. 56, 68 and 70) for the purpose of shaving highly curved surfaces. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified blade assembly of Terry et al. by providing the angle of approximately  $45^\circ$  as taught by Andrews in order to shave highly curved surfaces.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

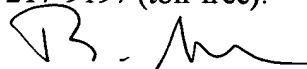
***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Nissen is cited to show related device.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Omar Flores-Sánchez whose telephone number is 571-272-4507. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan Shoap can be reached on 571-272-4514. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**BOYER D. ASHLEY  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**